Procurement of wheat

642. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procurement target for wheat this year;

(b) whether the procurement target has been fulfilled;

(c) how much wheat was procured by official agencies and how much by private traders; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to meet the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Since procurement of foodgrains under Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations carried out by Government agencies is open ended, no targets are fixed. However based on estimates given by State Food Secretaries before the start of the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08, an estimate of 151.5 lakh tonnes was drawn up for RMS 2007-08. Against this, 111.04 lakh tonnes of wheat was procured in RMS 2007-08 for the Central Pool.

(c) Government agencies (FCI & State agencies) have procured 111.04 lakh tonnes of wheat in RMS 2007-08 under MSP operations for the Central Pool. Data on procurement of wheat by private traders is not maintained in this Department.

(d) In order to meet the requirements of TPDS and welfare schemes, the Government has decided to import the required quantity of wheat, upto 50 lakh tonnes during 2007-08.

BPL households in Kerala

643. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of BPL households in Kerala as assessed by the Government in August, 2004 based on actual identification through gramsabhas is 20.22 lakhs against 15.54 lakhs estimated by the Central Government based on a formula and accordingly there is a shortage of 16,449 MTs foodgrains for the distribution of foodgrains to BPL card holders in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would issue necessary approval of the BPL households as identified by the State Government and allot foodgrains accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A request from Government of Kerala has been received for enhancing the targeted BPL families from 15.54 lakhs at present to 20.22 lakhs.

Based on the poverty estimates of the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 projected on the population estimates as on 1st March, 2000, the targeted